

# RI Transportation *Digest*

Summer 2004

Volume 12 Number 4

Rhode Island Department of Transportation Newsletter

## **DOT welcomes summer Interns**

By Heather LaPlante

Each May, RIDOT welcomes a new group of college students to work in its facilities for the summer months. Twenty sections employ interns from the Summer Student Employment Program. The interns work at RIDOT Headquarters at Two Capitol Hill in Providence, at the Highway and Bridge Maintenance headquarters in Warwick, and at the Highway Safety office in Providence.

Another nine facilities throughout the state receive summer employees through the Seasonal Highway Maintenance Program. From Bridge Design to Financial Management, Environmental Planning to Building Maintenance, 85 interns are getting a taste of all RIDOT has to offer this summer.



**ENJOYS THE CHALLENGE:** Soany Delgado was assigned to Highway Engineering for her second summer internship. She previously worked in Materials.

This year's interns are a diverse group of students. They hail from every corner of the Ocean State into southern Massachusetts and as far away as Pennsylvania. The majority of the interns are still undergraduates in col-

(See **INTERNS**, page 4)

## **When working together is second nature**

By Colleen Dillard

Traffic Sign Technicians Daniel Gannon and Edward Golden love working together at the new sign shop that is their home away from home at Highway & Bridge Maintenance in Warwick. The two men have known each other since their early days in the field of sign making. They have nearly identical career histories leading up to their service with RIDOT.

Both followed in the footsteps of Gannon's father Bud, who had had a sign shop since leaving the service after WWII in the 1940s. The younger men learned the craft of sign making in Tollgate's Commercial Art Program after transferring from schools they wanted to quit. They continued to hone the craft of sign making, Golden by attending Butera School of Art, a commercial arts college, and Gannon by apprenticing with

his father. Eventually each opened his own private sign shop.

(See **Signmakers**, page 6)



**TRYING THEIR HANDS** at transportation construction equipment, here survey equipment, 1,500 high school students enjoyed the annual Construction Career Day held in April.

## **RIDOT Maintenance combats weed to preserve roadside's native plants**

Purple loosestrife, a tall plant with a distinctive purple flower, has become a serious wetland weed in the United States. It has no native herbivores or pathogens, and has spread rapidly. It is currently distributed throughout the entire northern USA and southern Canada. Although it has an attractive flower, loosestrife is considered a noxious weed because of its tendency to displace native plants.

The plant can be a serious problem along roadsides. At the request of Sheleen Clarke of Highway & Bridge

Maintenance, Lisa Tewksbury from the University of Rhode Island's Plant Sciences Department recently released *Galerucella pusilla* beetles to control the purple loosestrife in the median strip of Route 4 in East Greenwich. The beetles had already been successful in controlling the wild plant at the Roger Williams Zoo in Providence.

Control measures generally include mowing, hand-pulling, flaming, chemical treatments, and water level man-

(See **Loosestrife**, page 3)

*Recycle this issue - pass it on!*

## From the Director's Office

As I mentioned in my last Director's Column, many of you by now have noticed the new security measures in place at the Department of Administration. We are working towards setting up similar improvements in security within our building as well.

A kiosk at RIDOT's front door will be staffed with a Capitol Police officer starting July 1, 2004 and the officer will have a telephone and a video monitor to help keep an eye on the safety of our building. Six or seven doors will have keyed entryways, and a buzzer will be available at the handicapped entrance.

The video monitor at the kiosk will allow the Capitol Police officer to see the basement handicapped entrance, and to buzz in a handicapped person.

We will also soon begin producing photo IDs for everyone. They will match those at the Department of Administration and at the State House. We will have visitor badges for delivery people and other people doing business here.

Our landlord, the Department of Administration (DOA), has also come through for us. All the front windows were replaced in May. The west side windows (those facing towards DOA) are scheduled to be replaced in September. The rest of the building will be done in time as well.

### Funding update:

.....The FHWA funding situation in Washington is still not resolved, and may not be this year. RIDOT believes that the Congress will not give the Transportation Funding bill to the President, with the potential of having him veto it, in an election year.

.....We're right on target with the GARVEE funding, in terms of spending and getting the projects out. Thanks to everyone for working so hard.

.....Steel prices are up almost two-and-one-half times their average price, because China is buying a vast majority of the steel. General Assembly action is expected this session. RIDOT will then be able to process a change order to pay for a substantial portion of the increased cost for steel in existing contracts. Without this price adjustment, steel acquisition would have been jeopardized and the I-195 relocation schedule would have been significantly delayed. The federal government may reimburse the state for some or all of the additional cost but this will require modifications to the upcoming FHWA bill.



**RIDOT DIRECTOR James R. Capaldi sets an example for the staff by being one of the first to donate at the annual RIDOT Blood Drive held in April.**

Major changes are going on at our Highway and Bridge Maintenance Division. I was sad to see John Nickelson retire after 31 years with the Department. I worked closely with John when I was Chief Design Engineer and he was Deputy in the Traffic Section and enjoyed our time together immensely.

While our loss is Providence's gain, we will now have a great connection with the City of Providence's Public Works Department, as that is where John is headed to next.

This way we can work together and help each other out, especially during snowstorms.

We are actively seeking to fill his old position. In the interim, Deputy Director/Chief of Staff Chuck Alves will assume the authority of Division Administrator overseeing all program activities. Marie Marcaccio will serve as acting Deputy Division Administrator for Field Operations, and Namvar Moghadam will serve as acting Deputy Division Administrator for Engineering and Support Services.

I am asking for everyone's assistance and cooperation during this transition period. I also hope you will give Chuck, Marie, and Nami all of your support. Once we have completed an

assessment of the Division and have identified the resources necessary to make it work more effectively, I hope we'll be in a position of truly managing the workload at Maintenance rather than having to react to crisis. Ultimately, we hope to improve the overall efficiency and operation of the Maintenance Division.

Our Maintenance Division is the face of RIDOT that the public sees every day. Along with the rest of the Department we all should be proud of what we do. This is a great place to work and I recognize how hard each and everyone of you work everyday. Thank you for striving to be the best State agency and ensuring that we can say that we are proud to work here at the Rhode Island Department of Transportation.

Have a great summer!

## Machado, Vasquez to the rescue

To the Director:

On Thursday, May 6, my vehicle broke down on the first exit (Anthony Road) after the Sakonnet River Bridge. I was very concerned since I had my 82 year old mother with me and no way to contact anyone for help. Fortunately, two of your employees came to my rescue. They got my vehicle off the exit ramp and determined that the fuel line connector had come apart. One of the gentlemen let me use his cell phone to call my husband.

I wanted to make you aware of how they came to the rescue. I feel they should be commended for their help and kindness. Please thanks them again for me and my mom.

Sincerely,  
C. Diana Soares  
Finance Office  
Roger Williams  
University

*(Note: From additional information in Mrs. Soares letter, the thanks belong to Ken Machado of Bristol and Lorenzo Vasquez of Warren.)*

# RIDOT's TMC is honored twice at ITS America

By Alison Natale

The RIDOT Traffic Management Center (TMC) was the recipient of the TMC/TOC Transportation Systems and Operations Planning Forum Award at this year's ITS America's Annual Meeting in April. To qualify for such an award, the organization must have been newly deployed or updated in the last two years. Although the RIDOT TMC has existed since 1998, it was recently updated to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

RIDOT's TMC submittal highlighted the enhancements made to the Center in the last two years. RIDOT and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, which is considered to have the best of all the TMC's, were awarded the highest scores of all the submittals.

RIDOT emphasized the major leap taken by the TMC to update incident response and notification. Most notably, the web site was upgraded to provide ease of navigation for users accessing multiple camera systems. Recently installed overhead Dynamic Message Signs, alerting drivers of construction, accidents, delays, and Amber Alerts, and the implementation of the Highway Advisory Radio system were additional improvements.

Further enhancements included the introduction of a color-coded congestion map that provides a web user with congestion information. The real time flow of this data to the TMC is invaluable in enhancing operations and traffic planning.

RIDOT's TMC also received special recognition at the ITS America meeting. RIDOT had submitted material in the Education and Training Category for the Best of ITS Awards, and its presentation was one of four showcased during the opening ceremony. RIDOT TMC Manager Cynthia Levesque was in attendance, and when the RIDOT TMC submittal flashed across the screen for all in attendance to see, Levesque said she felt proud about how far the TMC has come in the last few years. "For the smallest state in the union to be recognized was thrilling. It was quite an honor," she said, "especially if you consider all the RIDOT TMC was up against. Not only was the Minnesota Department of Transportation TMC highlighted, but so was the United States DOT. It was a huge achievement for RIDOT to be recognized in this group."

The RIDOT presentation focused on a program created exclusively for training operational staff at the TMC. The submittal, An Interactive Approach to TMC Training, involves the use of a CD ROM to provide the user with a comprehensive training program to operate sophisticated computer systems. RIDOT is the first and only state to use such a program. TMC employee Michael Hodgskinson, who trained on the interactive system, said, "[It] is very up-to-date and

the graphics are incredible. It is very interesting to see the program reinforce the training." The first module "walks" the trainee through a variety of situations, enabling the user to virtually train on the system used in the TMC. The in-house training saves both time and money.

The changes and enhancements completed at the TMC in the last two years have proved both efficient and effective. Much hard work has been done by the entire TMC staff and they certainly warrant the success that has come their way.

**AWARD PRESENTATION** (Photo at left) Joe Stapleton, right, Chair of the Transportation Systems and Operations Planning Forum of ITS America, presents the Showcase Award to Cynthia Levesque, left, RIDOT's TMC Manager.



**BETTER MAY HELP:** Lisa Tewksbury of URI's Department of Plant Sciences releases special beetles to help control purple loosestrife in the median strip of Route 4 in East Greenwich.

## \*Loosestrife

(Continued from Page 1)

agement. The relative lack of success with these measures has led researchers to try biological techniques as a long term sustainable alternative to herbicides to rein in invasive weeds. Biological control of a non-native weed like purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) involves introducing natural enemies of the weed from its place of origin into its new home.



## Interns

(Continued from Page 1)

leges and universities. There are also a few student workers who will be taking the next step to law or graduate school in the fall. They attend the University of Rhode Island, Georgia Institute of Technology, Bowdoin College, and Georgetown University Law School to name a few. Their majors range from civil engineering and computer science to communications and political science.

The Summer Student Employment Program began May 17 with a brief orientation for this year's interns. Director James Capaldi personally welcomed the students to RIDOT with a short inspirational speech. He told them how he started at RIDOT as an intern, too. Over his career he worked his way through the Department to rise from intern to director. It was a reminder that hard work now will pay off in the future. At the end of the meeting, the supervisors greeted their new employees and took them their first day of work.

The summer is not all work and no play for RIDOT interns, though. All interns staff Bike Safety Day, which is scheduled for July 20. The fun event at Goddard State Park attracts many area children including groups from local day camps. Interns spend the day fitting the children with bicycle helmets, teaching them about pedestrian safety, painting their faces, and dancing to the music of a local DJ. It is a time for both learning from and enjoying the games



**ASSIGNED TO CONTRACTS:** Back for his third summer internship, Andrew Nagel spends his days completing Active Server Page (ASP) design of the engineering pages on the DOT website.



**TRAINING:** TMC intern Corey St. Sauveur, left, has a mentor in Jessica Rodas, at RIDOT for her fourth summer.



**FUTURE LAWYER:** Intern Michael McGuinn is preparing for his time in law school by working in the DOT legal office for the summer.

and activities of the day.

Toward the end of the summer an intern tour or field trip is planned. This is a daylong tour showing current construction projects, the latest technology, and the newest modes of transportation. It is an opportunity to show all of the interns exactly what has been happening in each department and in the field for the past three months. Among other activities, past tours have included a walk along a newly constructed bike path and a ride on the Providence-Newport ferry. A catered lunch and an exciting round of Transportation Jeopardy are always highlights of the day.

These special activities, combined with assigned work, offer students in the summer employment programs an opportunity to experience firsthand the inner workings of a unique state agency. For many, this is their first venture into the professional business world. At the end of August the interns leave RIDOT with new friendships and incomparable experiences. They may even be back for more next summer.

## A big thanks from the Wildcats!

The Coventry / West Warwick Wildcats extend their most sincere thanks to the DOT staff for the very generous donations made toward the Special Olympics Summer Games June 4 through 6 at the University of Rhode Island (URI). The Wildcats were able to fund a pizza party in the dorm after the big dance on Saturday night, and also a Victory Breakfast on the last day.

Brian Peterson, a Wildcat parent, says, "I know there are many URI graduates at RIDOT. They should be proud of the effort their school puts on for this annual event. The school manages to get the dorms ready in between the spring and summer sessions to house literally thousands of athletes, coaches and chaperones. Weekend events include meals in the dining hall, athletic competitions, fireworks, a dance and other festivities. The hospitality extended to the athletes and their families speaks volumes for both the State and the University."

## Two from Midstate represent RIDOT at national rodeo

By Susan Bernstein

Congratulations to William R. Whelan and Michael Senerchia of the Highway & Bridge Maintenance's Midstate Facility. The two were invited to compete at the Ohio Invitational Rodeo, RIDOT's first venture into the national rodeo competition.

Unlike a rodeo, the purpose of a rodeo competition is to promote safe, efficient equipment operations. Various events allow participants to demonstrate competence in safety procedures and vehicle operations. In the national rodeo, states can compete against each other in professional driving skills, pre-trip inspections (safety knowledge), and a

written test related to the employees' Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

Representing RIDOT, Whelan and Senerchia were able to discuss issues and practices with their peers, as well as learn about methods being successfully applied in other states.

Their selection to attend the event was based on their achievement in a similar event hosted by the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Public Works Association (RIPWA). The team claimed first place over all other competitors at the 2003 Rhode Island Snow Plow Rally.

RIPWA sponsored the Ohio trip, and RIDOT Maintenance wants to offer its sincere thanks to the organization for

their generous contribution. The organization also wants to thank the RI Council 94 AFSCME for its contribution.

The rodeo was a great learning experience for Whelan and Senerchia. Congratulations to them for demonstrating leadership and teamwork while serving as fine representatives of RIDOT.

**SECA Awards** - Awards for the 2003 campaign were presented by Governor Donald Carcieri and Jane Hayward, Director of DHS, Interim Director MHRH and Chair of the 2003 Campaign. John Martucci and Paul Carrier of RIDOT Materials received the Chairman's Citation for their work on the Campaign. RIDOT Director James Capaldi will be Chairman for the 2004 campaign.

## RIDOT Career Service Awards

Awards were presented in May for service levels achieved between February and April 2004.

### Thirty-Five Year Presentation

John E. Brownell-Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters.

### Thirty-Year Presentation

Kevin M. Kelley-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Belleville; John A. Napolitano-Financial Management; and Louis Ricci-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Traffic.

### Twenty-Five Year Presentation

Robert F. Marsocci-Construction; and Joseph P. Saunders-Survey.

### Twenty Year Presentation

Dennis W. Baker-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Midstate; Glen J. Cabral-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Traffic; Kathi A. Charpentier-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Midstate; James E. Connell-Construction; Toni A. Dimaio-Reall-Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters; Dennis A. Doyle-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-East Providence; Mark A. Ferri-Materials; Wayne A. Gablinske-Construction; Donald J. Hayes-Construction; Marie J. Jordan-Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters; and George Kennedy-

Highway & Bridge Maintenance-East Providence.

Also Bruce Kimball-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-East Providence; Joseph Labrie-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Bridge; William E. Laurie III-Construction; Edward T. Murphy Jr.-Health & Safety; Dean Pacia-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Headquarters; Mary B. Preston-MIS; Steven F. Rego-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Portsmouth; David L. Riley-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-East Providence; Richard A. Santos-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Portsmouth; John Tefft-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Hope Valley.

### Fifteen Year Presentation

Norman E. Aquilante-Construction; Angelo J. Baldinelli III-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Lincoln Facility; John J. Emma-Survey; John A. Kelsall-MIS; Steven J. Martin-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Hope Valley Facility; Edward T. Murphy III-Construction; Steven R. Quintin-Traffic Management; James A. Rockwell, III-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Hope Valley Facility; Robert A. Shirley-Highway & Bridge Maintenance-Hope Valley Facility; Andranik Tahmassian-Design.

### Ten Year Presentation

Clare E. Baffoni-Legal.



SMILING RECIPIENTS of Career Service Awards pose with RIDOT Director James R. Capaldi, P.E.



**MANY SIGNS IN STOCK:** Unlike the old facility, the new storage area and equipment for RIDOT's signmakers "is like a palace."

## Signmakers

(Continued from Page 1)

With 25 years of experience, Golden landed a state job with RIDOT Maintenance. The sign-making market was growing increasingly competitive as computer technology infiltrated the craft of sign making. While attending Occupational Training and Development courses, Golden ran into Gannon, who was working for Cataldo Associates which had contracts with the state. Golden knew that a position in the sign shop would open up in the next year and encouraged Gannon to apply.

Returning the favor, Golden let Gannon know when another position became available in the sign shop. The two returned to working together, this time at RIDOT.

Their work site was the old Maintenance sign shop, spread out among many buildings and multiple floors, making their task labor intensive and inefficient. They had to drag equipment from place to place, often disrupting the others they shared the space with. Some of the roofs leaked, causing damage to the supplies and costing the state money in their replacement.

Golden says, "This new place is like a palace compared to the old shop." All of the materials, computer technology, and equipment are now conveniently housed in one building, as well as all the signs that are kept in stock.

In addition to the new space, Gannon and Golden are happy to have new equipment to work with as well. This includes an additional Allen Data Graph Plotter, allowing both technicians to work on the same step of cutting letters and symbols in the sign making process at the same time. "It's just the two

of us, so having enough equipment that works properly is vital to our operation. We're lucky that this is a small state, otherwise we might run into trouble," Gannon chuckled.

The new Gerber Scientific Large Format Printer boasts a heat resin transfer process that can print anything in an outdoor durable form. Complex images can be burned onto vinyl in one shot instead of layer after layer of vinyl. The process of actually melting images into vinyl provides better clarity with more pixels. The signs made this way last about twice as long (six years) compared to the old cold resin transfer process.

The new panel saw cuts plastic, wood, and aluminum so that Gannon and Golden can cut their own signs. This saves the state money by eliminating the need to buy stock sheets and odd sizes of aluminum. They also no longer need to send out carpentry work to a contractor when they are working on special wooden signs such as the ones recently made for the interior of the Department of Motor Vehicles sporting the *Rhode Island Red*.

Gannon and Golden are a sign making dream team that is only enhanced by a wonderful working environment and up to date state of the art equipment.

## Thanks from Project Undercover

RIDOT employees expressed their generosity to those in need around the state once again this spring through Project Undercover. RIDOT contributed \$591.60 in cash, 149 pieces of underwear, 46 pairs of socks, and 218 diapers.

Janis Loiselle, who chaired the drive says, "Thanks for making the program such a success!"





**NASTO ATTENDEES, left.** Just in time to enjoy the Washington Cherry Blossoms, Bob Rocchio, Ed Szymanski, Ed Parker, Bernie Frezza, Vin Palumbo and foreground, Frank Corrao, attended the NASTO Annual Meeting.

## Success of RIDOT Enhancements program cited

RIDOT learned on June 3 that the state has been cited by the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse, a national non-profit organization in Washington that tracks and monitors all enhancement projects, as one of only three which has, "made great strides in moving their programmed projects to completion" and have experienced "the most dramatic increases" in obligating enhancement funds. Rhode Island, along with Arkansas and Virginia, each increased obligation of funds by more than 30 percent since FY 2000.

In addition, Rhode Island moved up over the past three years and currently ranks 21st overall nationally in obligating enhancement funds. In 2000, the Rhode Island program was ranked 46th.

Cited by Mike Bennett, Deputy Chief Engineer of Environmental & Intermodal Planning, for appreciation and congratulations for the achievement were Tom Queenan, "who has successfully guided this program over the past five years," as well as the more recent efforts of Sharon Stone and O.J. Silas.



**PRESERVATION AWARD: Ayo Osimboni, right, of Bridge Design accepted a Rhode Island Historic Preservation Award on behalf of RIDOT for the resoration of the Ashton Viaduct. The award was presented April 24 by Frederick C. Williamson, left, Chairman of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission.**

## Walkability Workshops held for local communities

By Alison Natale

Alternatives to the motor vehicle was the focus as the Office of Statewide Planning sponsored a series of eight workshops for Community Walkability in late May. The workshops were held to enhance and promote pedestrian and bicycle friendly neighborhoods and communities.

RIDOT Engineers from the Design section were on hand at the workshops to encourage discussion and make suggestions for improvements to walkability. Pawtucket, Warwick, East Providence, Providence, Middletown, West Warwick, Burillville, and Portsmouth each held four-hour workshop sessions, giving community members, planners, and local officials the opportunity to gain insight into providing an environment conducive to more pedestrian-friendly areas.

The Walkable Community Workshops were able to take place thanks in part to The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; the series was endorsed by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

The workshops allowed those in attendance to do a walking audit of an area in the host city or town. After the audit, attendees met and discussed ways to make the area more pedestrian friendly. Then they had an opportunity to create their own plans to improve the walkability of the area.

Trainers from the National Center for Bicycling and Walking gave presentations on "Traffic Calming" techniques, including design methods that improve conditions for pedestrians. Other suggestions at the workshops included ideas for the revitalization of main streets, creation of more accessible sidewalks, and ways to provide safe routes

to school programs.

While no immediate changes were made to any of the workshop areas, the sessions were considered a success. RIDOT's Road Design Managing Engineer and workshop attendee Bob Smith said, "What's most important is we were able to get a better feel for the technology available to utilize making communities more walkable." Planners and local citizens gained invaluable knowledge and insight into creating more pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods. Walkable communities provide an atmosphere advantageous to local businesses, which in turn helps the Rhode Island economy. The workshops proved to be important catalysts towards cultivating an environment favorable to pedestrian mobility, providing the communities with many new ideas to consider when implementing plans to improve walkability.



**CONGRATULATIONS:** State Trooper Frank Rohan receives congratulations on his recent promotion from Corporal to Sergeant. (Back Row left to right: Sergeant Bob Mackisey; Leo (Butch) Simoneau, TMC Operator; Karenlee Bernardo, TMC Support Staff; Paul Annarummo, Managing Engineer; Joe Schall, TMC Supervising Planner; Front Row left to right: Sergeant Frank Rohan, Cynthia Levesque, TMC Manager; Donna Francisco, Building Manager.



**RUSH HOUR** on the Gobi Desert: Outside of Ulaan Baatar and a few other towns, roads of any kind, paved or not, are rare in Mongolia. Barry Higgins, who took the above photo, his brother and a few friends recently went to Russia (Siberia), Scandinavia, Mongolia and China on vacation.



**NEW MAILROOM FIXTURES:** RIDOT's ancient wooden mailroom fixtures were replaced with modern metal fixtures this spring. Thanks go to Al Tarantino, left, and John Jarbeau, right (seen above) as well as Ed Murphy III and Earl Curtin.

**A FESTIVE GOODBYE** for Bob Letteri, far right, who retired from RIDOT Traffic Engineering after 28 years of state service. He celebrated with friends, including Jo Tay-



lor-Prata, above, at an early June party. Left, hugs from Despina Metakos, left and Dottie Bianchi, right.

### **New hires and retirees**

New hires this spring at RIDOT included Donna M. Koch-Minett of Administrative Services, Sean Arruda of Design and David Antonelli of Highway & Bridge Maintenance.

Retirees this spring included Joseph E. Cadden, Chester H. Duclos and Eddie J. Miller of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, and Mary B. Preston of MIS.

### **Returned to Headquarters**

Sandra Nadeau and Marilyn Flanders have returned to RIDOT Headquarters' Construction offices from their previous assignments in the Special Projects office overlooking the new Providence River Signature bridge.



### **The Pet Corner**

Nancy Getek of Legal Services is smitten with her new beagle bundle of joy, named Rufus. Above, Luanne Powers of Highway Engineering also has a new dog, named Xena.





## FAMILIES AND FUN



**SLEEPING PRINCESS:** Kaitlyn was born May 11 to Steve Pristawa (Traffic) and his wife Kim. Kaitlyn weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz.



**RIDOT TEAM WINS:** In the Pare Engineering three mile walk to benefit the Make A Wish foundation, the RIDOT Team runners came in first place! The RIDOT Team consisted of runners Bob Rocchio and Tom Bushell of Traffic Design and Mike DeRotto of Highway Design. Despina Metakos won the prize for most money raised. Mike's daughter Kristen (foreground) also attended and walked the course.



**SPECIAL MEETING:** RIDOT Photographer Chuck Aube says he just couldn't bear the thought of not meeting the PawSox mascot during a Click It or Ticket photo shoot at McCoy Stadium.



**A HANDSOME SON,** Nicholas Lambri Zerva, was born to Lambri Zerva (Design) and his wife Stephanie on May 17. Nicholas weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz.



**HIS PARENTS ARE PROUD:** When Edward W. Stravato, Jr. graduated 9th in his class at Bishop Hendricken High School this spring, Carolyn Stravato (Bridge Design) and her husband Edward (a retired RIDOT employee) were certainly proud. Their son is a member of the National Honor Society and the Rhode Island Honor Society, and has been active in community service, a volunteer at Fatima Hospital, a member of Saint Rocco CYO, and a participant in the Student Leadership Training Seminar

and the National Youth Forum on Medicine. He will attend Providence College in the fall, where he will major in biology in a pre-med program.

## RI Transportation *Digest*

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"WALKING THE WALK": RIDOT staff talk a lot about alternative forms of transportation, and when Bike to Work Day rolls around each spring, the Downtown Providence event finds a good number of RIDOT regulars who make their way into the City on two wheels rather than four. Left to right, Ed

Szymanski, Brian Peterson, Mark Felag, Bob Smith, Patrick Vu, Mary Gelardi, Ed Parker and Steve Devine. Two others, Mike Mitchell and Mike DeRotto, had also biked to work, but do not appear in the photo.

*Printed on recycled paper*

*James R. Capaldi, P.E.  
Director*



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